

Technical Disclosure Commons

Defensive Publications Series

December 2020

Document-level Contextual Help for Terms and Abbreviations

Muralidharan Sundararajan

Follow this and additional works at: https://www.tdcommons.org/dpubs_series

Recommended Citation

Sundararajan, Muralidharan, "Document-level Contextual Help for Terms and Abbreviations", Technical Disclosure Commons, (December 21, 2020)
https://www.tdcommons.org/dpubs_series/3903



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Technical Disclosure Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Defensive Publications Series by an authorized administrator of Technical Disclosure Commons.

Document-level Contextual Help for Terms and Abbreviations

ABSTRACT

This disclosure describes techniques for automatically providing additional information about selected words in-place where the words occur in a document. Per techniques of this disclosure, a list is created of selected content (terms) that may not be readily understood by a reader. Corresponding explanatory text and/or expansions are obtained. The content is suitably highlighted at their point of occurrence in the document. Upon user input selecting the content, e.g., via a mouseover or hover action, a tap on the words, etc., a pop-up or floating window is displayed in-place that includes additional contextual information for the highlighted content. The additional contextual information is provided by the author(s) of the document by the creation of a list of terms and providing additional information about such terms. Alternatively, or in addition, the additional information is fetched from a link, e.g., an external source such as a website that includes data relevant to the user selection, e.g., by using the user selection as a query string.

KEYWORDS

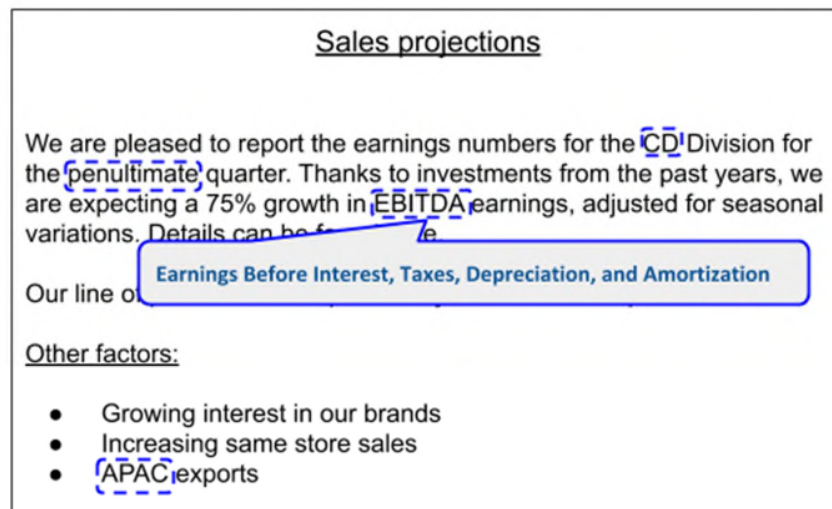
- Abbreviation
- Term definition
- Contextual information
- Contextual assistance
- Document editor
- Word processor

BACKGROUND

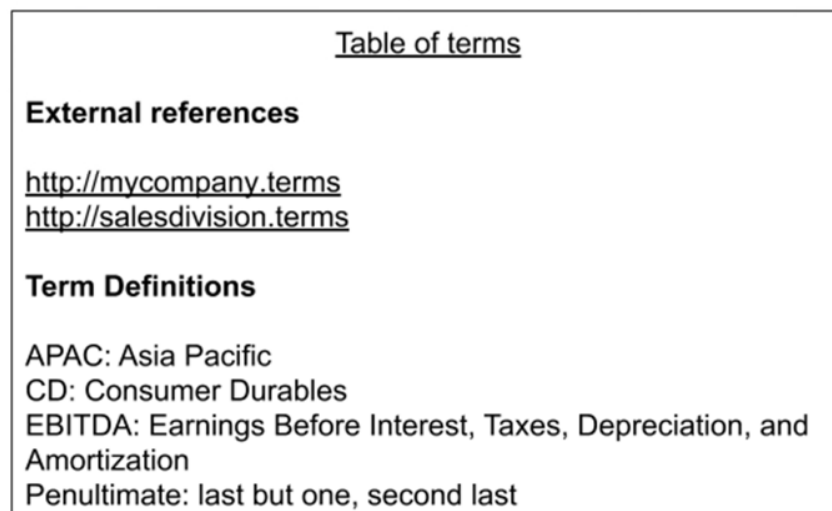
Many documents include abbreviations, domain-specific terms, or complex words that may not be universally understood. Common practices to help readers understand such terms are to define the terms or expand abbreviations at their first point of occurrence, or to provide a glossary at the beginning or end of the document. When a reader comes across a term they don't understand while reading content, the user is required to navigate to an earlier or later position in the document to obtain the definition from the glossary or from a page where it is defined initially.

DESCRIPTION

This disclosure describes techniques for automatically providing additional information about selected words in-place where the words occur in a document. Per techniques of this disclosure, a list is created of selected content (terms) that may not be readily understood by a reader, e.g., abbreviations, complex words, etc. Corresponding explanatory text and/or expansions are obtained. The content is suitably highlighted at their point of occurrence in the document, e.g., while the document is being viewed or edited in a word processor or other application. Upon user input selecting the content, e.g., via a mouseover or hover action, a tap on the words, etc., a pop-up or floating window is displayed in-place that includes additional contextual information for the highlighted content.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 1: Additional contextual information is provided for highlighted terms

Fig. 1 illustrates the use of a pop-up or floating window to provide additional contextual information about highlighted terms in a document, per techniques of this disclosure. Fig. 1(a) depicts an example document that includes one or more query string terms. When a reader places their mouse or cursor on a query string term (or terms) for a threshold period of time (e.g., greater than 2 seconds), logic is invoked to perform a lookup of the corresponding terms and

display relevant information pertaining to the terms). The query string terms can optionally be highlighted (e.g., underlined, displayed in a different color, shown with a color background or greyed out, shown inside a box, etc.) in the document, e.g., by author(s) of the document, as terms for which additional contextual information is available.

For example, as depicted in Fig. 1(a), the word “penultimate” and the abbreviations “CD,” “EBITDA,” and “APAC” are enclosed within a dotted box. Such highlighting may be subtle (e.g., a dotted underline) or may be omitted altogether, relying instead on the user performing a mouseover or similar action to trigger fetching additional information. When the reader (who may be editing the document in document editing software) points to a query string (e.g., selects a term within the document via a mouseover), a pop-up box is displayed that includes the additional contextual information, e.g. expansion of an abbreviation, meaning, etc. In the example of Fig. 1(a), the definition of the term “EBITDA” is shown in the pop-up box.

The additional contextual information is provided by the author(s) of the document by the creation of a list of terms. As depicted in Fig. 1(b), a “Table of terms” created by the author is included as part of the document and used to automatically highlight terms within the document. The author can include terms that may be not easily understood by a reader, and provide additional information about such terms.

In some implementations, and as depicted in Fig. 1(b), the additional contextual information can also be provided via a reference such as a uniform record locator (URL) to an external source such as an external database or an organization-wide knowledge base.

A priority ordering may be utilized such that when a reader points to a highlighted term within the document, a lookup for the term is performed by first utilizing links listed in a “External References” section before performing a lookup using a list of terms included in the

document. This can enable utilization of both organization wide knowledge bases (which can be updated independent of the document) as well as document-level additional information.

Techniques of this disclosure can enable the provision of additional contextual information about terms to a reader of a document by utilizing a user-friendly user interface. The additional information is provided without increasing document clutter and without requiring the reader to navigate to a different portion of a document.

The described techniques can be implemented in any document viewing or editing software such as word processors, presentation software, spreadsheet software, etc. and/or in hardware devices such as e-readers, tablets, etc.

CONCLUSION

This disclosure describes techniques for automatically providing additional information about selected words in-place where the words occur in a document. Per techniques of this disclosure, a list is created of selected content (terms) that may not be readily understood by a reader. Corresponding explanatory text and/or expansions are obtained. The content is suitably highlighted at their point of occurrence in the document. Upon user input selecting the content, e.g., via a mouseover or hover action, a tap on the words, etc., a pop-up or floating window is displayed in-place that includes additional contextual information for the highlighted content. The additional contextual information is provided by the author(s) of the document by the creation of a list of terms and providing additional information about such terms. Alternatively, or in addition, the additional information is fetched from a link, e.g., an external source such as a website that includes data relevant to the user selection, e.g., by using the user selection as a query string.